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Security Agencies and Election Management in Nigeria: A Study Of 2019 General Election in Akwa Ibom State

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ABSTRACT: This study examined the nexus between election security and democratic consolidation in Nigeria through a documentary, descriptive analysis of the 2019 Akwa Ibom State gubernatorial election. Grounded in the view that security underpins human development and democratic legitimacy, the research reviewed secondary sources INEC documents, observer reports, scholarly articles, and policy texts to assess how security institutions shape electoral credibility across the pre-election, election-day, and post-election phases. Findings show that while security agencies are constitutionally central to protecting voters, officials, materials, and procedures, multiple constraints undermined their effectiveness in 2019: ambiguous legal and operational mandates between agencies and the EMB; underfunding and uneven resource deployment; weak, slow, or fragmented inter-agency communication; outdated information and intelligence systems; political interference that compromised neutrality; skills gaps in de-escalation, crowd management, and cyber-related risks; inconsistent enforcement of electoral laws; limited coordination; and low transparency

and accountability. These deficits enabled practices intimidation, vote-buying, and targeted violence that erode voter confidence and blunt democratic consolidation. The study concludes that credible elections in Nigeria depend not only on the presence of security personnel but on their professionalism, impartiality, and integration into a coherent, adequately financed, intelligence-led security architecture coordinated with INEC. It recommends clarifying legal roles and accountability lines; increasing timely, ring-fenced funding; modernizing communications and intelligence systems; instituting joint operations planning and exercises; expanding targeted training (rights-based policing, de-escalation, chain-of-custody, cyber hygiene); insulating deployments from partisanship; and strengthening transparent monitoring and after-action reviews. Implemented together, these measures can reduce electoral violence, improve public trust, and advance Nigeria's democratic consolidation.

Keywords: *Election Security, Democratic Consolidation, INEC, Nigeria Police Force, Structural Functionalism, Electoral Violence, Political Interference, Security Agencies, Governance.*

Introduction

Without a proper security, the functioning society cannot even progress towards genuine development. Security, of course, entails much more than the lack of physical violence; it encapsulates basic human needs like having proper shelter, stable food supply, sound health infrastructures, and have a good living conditions (Onovo, 2011). Security is essential since it supports growth and buoyancy of both individuals and groups to the state. Safe environment provides security to long-term development and the predictability of human behavior and at the same time social cohesion, harmony and peaceful coexistence. On the contrary, lack of security leads to deviant behavior and disintegration.

The cost of security is economically beneficial as it promotes life and property and this way investment is attracted both locally and internationally. On the contrary, insecurity stirs up capital flight. On a political front, a safe environment strengthens the observance of human dignity and democracy. States like the Armed Forces,

Police, Civil Defence and the Department of State Security are present in Nigeria with the explicit mandate of protecting the people, the democratic system, and the election process (Onovo, 2011). Elections are the most acceptable process in the formation of democratic institutions where the leadership is connected to the voters. Ideally, elections will ensure political participation and a healthy contention that are core Democratic consolidation (Jinadu, 1997). Credible elections are a way of restoring and reinforcing democratic governance (Almond et al., 2004). However, elections possess competitive and to a large degree confrontative nature; security is thus an attribute that cannot be ignored in ensuring confidence and commitment among actors. According to testimony by the United Nations, at least one in every five elections around the world suffer a certain level of violence making electoral security an important element, especially in fledgling democracies like Nigeria (Hounkpe & Gueye, 2001).

Security organizations are supposed to play a very crucial role in election management. The meaning of election security refers to the security of the electoral process in terms of violence and manipulation. In this regard, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) instituted the Inter-agency Consultative Committee on Election Security whose role is to coordinate the activities of security outfits during elections. Good security will help in ensuring free movement to the voters, candidates, officials, observers and other stakes thus ensuring credibility of the process (Jega, 2012). Voter confidence relies on the methods of counting the votes and making records as well as the characters of the election officials, which all are strengthened by active security (Jega, 2012).

The process of elections security goes through three different stages which include pre-election, election-day, and post-election. Insecurity is also a key electoral administration issue in many emerging democracies with Nigeria as one such country. Even though elections per se do not directly lead to violence, bad organization, violation, and biasness usually give rise to violence (Jinadu, 2011). Adekanye et al. (2011) indicate that the roles of security agencies during elections are to ensure that campaigns are monitored to avoid any incitements and violence, where they provide a safe environment where electorates exercise their right to vote

freely and lastly, to ensure that the electoral process is sacred. The problem of election security in West Africa remains an enormous factor that threatens democracy in the region.

With the renewed democratic rule since 1999 in Nigeria, the pursuit of free, fair and credible elections has remained a dominant agenda in the political arena in Nigeria. But violence, threats and irregularities have plagued the electorate process so much. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has in response collaborated with security agencies in order to create a conducive atmosphere to vote. Nonetheless, serious reservations still linger as to whether security agencies can be used in the wrong way- especially in cases where they are used to compromise the outcome by the parties in power- thus the decreasing trust of the people in the political system. Many obstacles still exist although very significant progress is achieved in electoral administration. These are politicization of the institution of security, logistical challenges faced when some of the areas are unreachable, filling the institution with inexperienced workers, and a small intelligence network that is not able to respond accordingly on threats. The expressions of electoral insecurity have not been the same, as evidenced by ballot-box snatching, vote buying, political thuggery, all the way to hooliganism, armed violence, and intimidation (Olurode, 2013). This political violence during election in Nigeria is usually caused by stiff rivalry of the power and control of the state resources (Obiyan & Olutola, 2013).

Violence and irregularities have become common occurrences during general elections in the Akwa Ibom State and this state of affairs can in most occasions be connected with the poor performances of the security agencies. In the 2019 gubernatorial elections, despite a record number of security officers being deployed, cases of widespread intimidation and vote buying of voters and election officials and theft of the voting material by organized thugs have been documented (Obiyan & Olutola, 2013). Such accidents bring to serious consideration the matter of whether current security arrangements are adequate or not. Due to this tendency, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other electoral management organizations have enforced their endeavors to deal with issues of election-related security challenges. However, the maintenance of issues like poor institutional

capacity, political interference and purely ineffective security operations are the factors that still act as a hindrance towards the holding of peaceful and credible election in Nigeria. The paper will therefore endeavor to explore the issues that security agencies are facing in the management of elections in Nigeria, and specifically in the Akwa Ibom State.

Research Design

This research will explore the relationship between election security and democratic consolidation in Nigeria, focusing on the 2019 gubernatorial election in Akwa Ibom State. The study will use documentary and descriptive research methods, drawing data from secondary sources such as government reports, INEC publications, election monitoring bodies' findings, and academic articles. Documentary research will provide historical and contextual insights into security measures during elections, while descriptive research will analyze the effectiveness of these measures in ensuring peaceful, free, and fair elections. The study will examine the role of security agencies, coordination with the Election Management Body (INEC), and the challenges faced in ensuring election security. It will also assess how these factors influence voter trust, political participation, and the legitimacy of the election process, ultimately contributing to democratic consolidation in Nigeria. The research aims to provide recommendations for improving election security and strengthening democratic institutions.

REVIEW OF CONCEPTUAL LITERATURE

Concept of Election Security

Election security plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and credibility of the electoral process, safeguarding all stakeholders involved, including the Electoral Management Body (EMB), voters, election officials, political parties, and observers. Security in elections involves not only the physical protection of individuals and electoral materials but also the safeguarding of the democratic process itself. Security forces are tasked with protecting various elements of the election process across three phases: pre-electoral, electoral (polling day), and post-electoral. In the pre-electoral phase, security forces ensure the protection of voter registration activities

and the integrity of electoral materials (Ajayi, 2007). During the electoral phase, security agencies are responsible for securing polling units, voting centers, collation centers, and sensitive sites, while also facilitating the safe transfer of results (Jega, 2012). Finally, post-electoral security ensures the protection of electoral institutions, the maintenance of order during the announcement of results, and the prevention of fraudulent claims (Norman, 2010).

Security in elections is vital for achieving three key objectives: ensuring a secure environment for electoral personnel to carry out their duties, protecting the safety of voters, and allowing all stakeholders to perform their duties freely without fear or intimidation (Ibrahim, 2013). The importance of election security is highlighted by the challenges faced in Nigeria, where political violence and insecurity have historically undermined the credibility of elections (Olurode, 2013). Properly managed election security can prevent election-related violence, reduce voter suppression, and maintain public confidence in the electoral process (Olutola & Obiyan, 2013). However, challenges remain in ensuring effective security during elections, including the lack of coordination between security agencies, political interference, inadequate training of security personnel, and inconsistent enforcement of electoral laws (Fagbemi & Afolabi, 2015). To address these issues, it is essential to improve coordination, training, and transparency among security agencies and the EMB, ensuring that election security is impartial, professional, and efficient.

The Constitutional Role of the Security Agencies in Election Management in Nigeria

Once we discuss the elections in Nigeria the role of the security agencies transcends what the act prescribes that they are supposed to do. These include units such as the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the Nigerian Correctional Service, among others, whose activities determine, to a great extent, whether an election can be sincerely called free and fair. It is due to the fact that irregularities, violence, and malpractice have long characterized Nigeria elections, and so, specialists continually emphasize that the input of security agencies cannot be overlooked in case we, indeed, want credible and fair results.

Badly managed elections are also likened to worsening of existing ethnic, tribal, and religious dividers hence leading to more violence, casualties, and lack of legitimacy on the part of the winner. When this occurs, failed parties will resort to extra-legal push back or violence, establishing the next election cycle to be another site of conflict. According to Hounkpe and Gueye (2010), mismanaged elections are one of the fundamental contributors to armed conflicts, insecurity, and political instability in Africa. In a country such as Nigeria, a situation characterized by a combative and polarizing political rivalry, the recruitment of the security agencies can be not only beneficial but also a complete necessity.

But on election day, however, their work does not take place. As is expressed in the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, security agencies are to be on the move during the whole electoral process and therefore they do not rest until well into the post election house cleaning. Among the services that they are expected to perform are aiding in keeping order in the society, protection of ballot materials and the officers, and acting to avert fights. Police officers are squarely on the front line of internal security since according to the provision of the constitution, their constitutional duty is to safeguard lives and property and maintain law and order as earlier observed by Okereke (1992) and Membere (1982). This mission is also on its own in the Constitution in Section 215(3) where it instructs the police to ensure the security of the state and citizens throughout elections.

Security institutions, particularly the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), play a critical role in ensuring the credibility, fairness, and peacefulness of elections. They are not merely supplementary to the election process but are an essential component in safeguarding the integrity of the electoral system. The presence of security forces during elections is a matter of constitutional necessity, not an afterthought. Their role is not only to protect lives and property but also to maintain order, ensure the smooth functioning of polling stations, and enforce electoral laws (Ajayi, 2007). Despite this, the deployment of security forces can raise concerns about the potential erosion of democratic ideals, particularly when voters perceive security personnel as being aligned with partisan interests or as intimidating forces. These fears are valid, given

Nigeria's contentious electoral history, where political violence and intimidation have often undermined public trust in the electoral process (Olurode, 2013).

While security agencies, including the NPF, are constitutionally mandated to provide security during elections, their presence must be handled carefully to avoid interfering with voters' rights and freedoms. The Nigeria Police Force's primary responsibility under the Electoral Act of 2010 is to ensure the safety of all individuals involved in the election process, including voters, electoral officials, and political candidates. The NPF is tasked with crowd control, safeguarding polling stations and collation centers, and ensuring the peaceful conduct of electoral proceedings. Furthermore, their duties extend to protecting constitutional rights, maintaining public order, and enforcing both electoral and criminal laws (Jega, 2012).

Ultimately, the success or failure of the electoral system hinges on the professionalism, independence, and efficiency of security agencies. When security forces remain impartial, refrain from political manipulation, and adhere to their constitutional mandate, they not only ensure the safety of the election process but also strengthen democratic stability. By fostering public trust, security agencies help preserve the credibility of elections and uphold democratic principles (Olutola & Obiyan, 2013).

Principle guidelines of Security Agencies in Nigeria's Election

Security forces follows specific sets of principles in order to operate in the framework of an election process effectively. These principles are equitableness and right-based as by this they mean that every participant is treated under the equal standard and the responses given to any action are reasonable, proportionate, and not affected by any one-sided factors like the political affiliation of the participant (Ibrahim 2013:4951). Elections are a political, civil, and human right devise, and security measures should not interfere with the rights especially because the electoral seasons introduce more attention to such rights. The issue of national ownership cannot also be overlooked; although at times international forces can help in post-conflict or transition elections, the aspect of security should be mostly under the supervision of national bodies to depict the aspect of sovereignty and help use the

local knowledge and cultural sensitivity the local forces will have. Such planning should be strategic because the elections, which are planned 18 to 24 months in advance, need to integrate security and election resources to perform all routine and electoral duties effectively.

The security forces should also remain non-partisan and impartial since any suspicion may increase tension and reduce their efficacy thus the impression of neutrality is as vital as actuality. Contingency planning and allocation of resources to support the flexibility and efficiency needed which would allow late arrival of legal, operational, or political changes to make the decision-making. The elements of transparency and accountability also contribute to building trust, striking the balance between security of operations and the common good, consultation processes with the political parties and with civil society as well as the stakeholders, and the political aspects of decision making by the operations. Lastly, the policing during elections has to be effectively handled. Episodes of obstruction, harassment, or violence against the members of the opposition as reported in Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Cross Rivers during gubernatorial and by-elections has created a fear over a possibility of manipulation, particularly when combined with actions such as salary increment or mass recruitment which could be seen as an effort to gain complicity of an individual (Ibrahim, 2021).

Conduct of 2019 General Election in Akwa Ibom State Operations Planning

In the 2019 Nigerian General Elections, one of the significant issues that had previously undermined the credibility of the polling system was duplicate voting. To address this, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) introduced a two-stage voting system. Accreditation took place from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by the opening of ballot boxes at 12:30 p.m., with voting continuing until the last person in line had cast their vote. This new structure aimed to minimize the possibility of multiple voting; however, time shortages during the process led to the introduction of Voting Points. By dividing polling units into smaller sections with no more than 300 voters per Voting Point, the voting process became more manageable, ensuring that more voters could be processed within the given time (INEC, 2019).

Regarding staffing, Akwa Ibom State, with its 1,621,798 registered voters across 2,982 polling units, had a significant number of personnel deployed for the elections. INEC recruited a total of 8,946 polling unit staff, including Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, and other ad-hoc workers, from universities and federal institutions. These staff were supplemented by Supervisory Presiding Officers, Collation Officers, and Returning Officers, all working together to ensure the smooth conduct of the election (Alemika, 2015). INEC established Registration Area Centers (RACs), which acted as operational hubs where election materials were stored and distributed. These RACs were essential for processing new voters, verifying identification cards, and organizing election materials (INEC, 2019). The logistics for the 2019 election were complex and required careful coordination to transport sensitive materials like ballot papers, which were printed abroad and securely delivered to various locations, including remote areas (World Bank, 2020). Effective security was critical to the success of the elections, and INEC worked closely with law enforcement agencies through the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES). This coordination ensured that security forces were aligned with election operations, maintaining order and preventing election-related violence (Pittet et al., 2005). The meticulous planning, logistical execution, and stakeholder engagement contributed to the election being widely recognized as one of the most peaceful and credible in recent Nigerian history (UNICEF, 2022).

Factors That Hinder Effective Relations between Security Agencies and the EMB in 2019 General Election

There are a number of circumstances that weaken the efficiency of cooperation between the security agencies and the Election Management Body (EMB) in Nigeria:

i. Characterization Combat premise Legal

Roles and relationships between stakeholders are defined by statute law, and from regulatory texts. Lack of precision or clarity leads to frictions on where the responsibilities and accountability and operational responsibilities lie hence leading to the lack of total security of elections (Ajayi, 2007). These legal tools must also be

strengthened in an attempt to enhance status quo prerogatives, obligation, and collaboration modalities.

i. Inadequate Funding

Sufficient funding forms a part of the foundation of viable Security Force engagement. It is important to estimate costs accurately, or manage allocations, and make people accountable. Lack of proper resources might leave the personnel ill-prepared whereas too many funds might raise the costs of electioneering and misuse resources (Alemika, 2015). Effective fiscal management plays the role of securing the proper equipment and compensation of the security forces.

iii. There is non-existence of functional communication channels.

Election security cannot do without timely and correct information. Lax communication lines between SFs, EMB, and other stakeholders may jeopardize the achievement of security. There needs to be a strong mechanism of information collection, sharing, and dissemination hence. Through this framework, exchange of information should be secure, timely and reliable among the SFs, the EMB, civil society, political parties, media and citizens.

iv. Information incomplete systems

Olden times of security are less and less sufficient to address sophisticated threats of terrorism, cross-border cycling and political militias. An advanced, refined information system to project risks and synchronise actions is essential. Due to EMB, SFs can massively benefit with timely intelligence data-management, and technology resources, which will guarantee proactive and effective measures on election security (Alemika, 2015).

i. Political Interference and Partisanship

Political interference remains a major issue that negatively affects the relationship between security agencies and the EMB. Political pressure often influences the actions of security personnel, particularly during elections. Security agencies are sometimes compromised when political elites use their influence to manipulate or control security operations for partisan advantage. This political interference compromises the neutrality and effectiveness of security forces in maintaining law and order during elections. According to Olurode (2014), political parties and their affiliates often manipulate security personnel, causing partiality in enforcing election laws and security regulations. This undermines public confidence in the election process and leads to disputes over election results, particularly when political violence or fraud is suspected.

ii. Inadequate Training and Capacity of Security Personnel

The ability of security agencies to respond effectively to election-related threats is often hindered by a lack of training and inadequate capacity. Many security personnel tasked with election duties lack the specialized training required to handle complex security situations during elections. For instance, during electoral violence or civil unrest, a lack of crowd control and conflict de-escalation skills can exacerbate the situation. Security officers are also sometimes ill-equipped to handle the technological aspects of modern electoral processes, such as cyber threats or data manipulation. According to Fagbemi and Afolabi (2015), a lack of capacity building programs for security agencies weakens their ability to enforce law and order effectively during elections.

iii. Inconsistent Enforcement of Electoral Laws

A major challenge faced by security agencies during elections is the inconsistent enforcement of electoral laws. This includes selective enforcement of laws, where certain election-related crimes or violations are ignored or downplayed, particularly when those responsible are influential or politically connected. This inconsistency undermines the effectiveness of the electoral process and makes it difficult to maintain fairness. Fagbemi and Afolabi (2015) noted that security agencies' failure to

adequately address electoral malpractices, such as vote buying, ballot stuffing, and voter intimidation, further erodes public confidence in the electoral system.

iv. Limited Coordination Between Security Agencies

While various security agencies are tasked with ensuring different aspects of election security, there is often limited coordination between them. The lack of a unified operational strategy and communication between agencies like the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), State Security Service (SSS), Nigerian Armed Forces, and the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) creates gaps in election security. The absence of a coherent strategy often results in overlapping responsibilities, inefficiency, and sometimes even misdirected efforts. According to Okebukola (2014), security agencies often operate in silos, which can lead to delays in addressing security threats, as the relevant stakeholders are not always aware of each other's activities during critical times such as elections.

v. Lack of Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are vital components of an effective election security strategy. Unfortunately, the lack of transparency in the operations of security agencies often raises concerns about the integrity of the election process. Security agencies are sometimes accused of being complicit in electoral fraud or of not adequately investigating cases of election-related violence or fraud. When election security is not adequately monitored or evaluated, it becomes difficult to identify systemic problems and take corrective actions. According to Nwadiani (2021), a lack of transparent reporting mechanisms and independent oversight can undermine the credibility of election security and encourage complacency among security personnel.

vi. Electoral Violence and Intimidation

Electoral violence, including the use of political thugs, harassment, and intimidation of voters and political opponents, remains a significant challenge in Nigeria. Despite the presence of security agencies, election-related violence continues to undermine the credibility of the electoral process. The inability of security agencies to fully

address these issues often results in voter suppression and disenfranchisement, particularly among marginalized groups such as women and the elderly. According to Olurode (2014), the inability of security forces to protect voters from intimidation or violence during elections has had a long-standing impact on the quality and fairness of elections in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study utilizes the Structural Functionalism Theory, first introduced by Emile Durkheim in the late nineteenth century, as a framework for understanding the roles of security agencies in electoral processes. The theory posits that the functioning of society relies on the interdependence of various institutions, such as government, law enforcement, education, and religion, with each component contributing to maintaining societal stability. In the context of electoral security, Structural Functionalism helps examine the statutory roles and operational capacities of security agencies tasked with safeguarding the electoral process. According to Carlos (2014), the cooperation between electoral bodies, political parties, security agencies, civil society, the media, and voters is crucial for ensuring credible elections. Similarly, Norman (2010) emphasizes that the effectiveness of security institutions directly influences the legitimacy and validity of election results.

In Nigeria, factors such as ethno-religious tensions, poverty, unemployment, and the involvement of political thugs have exacerbated the security challenges during elections. Although some critics argue that Structural Functionalism fails to fully address social change and causal relationships, the theory remains valuable in explaining the roles, structures, and functions of security agencies, including the police, military, immigration services, and paramilitary groups. These agencies, through their various roles, maintain order and protect the integrity of elections. The application of Structural Functionalism helps inform policy decisions on the deployment and coordination of security forces during elections, ensuring that their presence is aligned with the goal of securing a peaceful and credible electoral process.

Findings

The 2019 gubernatorial election in Akwa Ibom State faced numerous challenges that undermined the effectiveness of election security and the smooth execution of the electoral process. One of the major issues identified was the unclear delineation of roles and responsibilities between security agencies and the Election Management Body (EMB), which led to confusion and friction in their operational duties. This ambiguity in the legal and regulatory framework hampered the overall security of the election process (Ajayi, 2007). According to Alemika (2015), a clear legal framework is essential for effective coordination between the security agencies and the EMB, ensuring a smooth electoral process.

Another significant challenge was inadequate funding, which left security personnel ill-prepared. Proper fiscal management is crucial for securing the necessary resources, such as equipment and personnel compensation, to ensure smooth operations during elections (Alemika, 2015). Excessive funding, on the other hand, can lead to wasteful expenditure, affecting the efficiency of security operations. Similarly, the lack of functional communication channels between the security agencies, EMB, political parties, and other stakeholders contributed to delays and confusion in the dissemination of vital security information. The absence of timely and accurate communication also hindered coordination and the effective response to emerging threats (Ajayi, 2007). Furthermore, outdated information systems hampered the ability of security agencies to anticipate and address emerging security threats, including terrorism and political militias (Alemika, 2015). Political interference and partisanship were also prominent issues, with political elites manipulating security personnel, which compromised their neutrality and effectiveness in maintaining order during the election (Olurode, 2014). Additionally, inadequate training and lack of capacity in security personnel weakened their response to complex electoral security challenges, such as electoral violence and voter intimidation (Fagbemi & Afolabi, 2015).

Inconsistent enforcement of electoral laws, limited coordination between security agencies, and a lack of transparency and accountability further contributed to the challenges. These issues, combined with election-related violence and voter

intimidation, significantly impacted the credibility of the election process (Olurode, 2014). The challenges faced in the 2019 Akwa Ibom gubernatorial election highlight the need for reforms and improvements in election security strategies to ensure the credibility and fairness of future elections.

Conclusion

The analysis shows that effective holding of elections in Nigeria is incomplete without a strong organizational structure that includes the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other related security agencies. Since the security agencies are aimed at securing life and property as well as safeguarding the electoral process, their input has at certain times hindered the democratic process of choosing anyone to be the leader of Nigeria. The real security does not only imply a tangible presence, but it also depends on thorough pre-deployment briefings, professional training, strict performance of functions, and management of risks relating to elections. Therefore, perpetual diligence, careful training, and proper inter-agency collaboration are vital in maintaining and progression of the democratization process in Nigeria. Similarly, the welfare, logistic, and incentive mechanisms whilst working with security servants and electoral officials is what supports the increase in productivity and integrity of elections.

Recommendations

Out of the current analysis, the following recommendations are:

i. Personnel augmentation: This is a critical constraint in terms of numbers of security personnel throughout the process of election. Having three officers per polling unit, which is vastly different in percentage ratio to the United Nations recruitment policy, namely 222 officers per 1,000 people, INEC and the other central government agencies will need to send in extra officers to ensure the crisis can be effectively managed. Hiring additional security agents is essential in order to have complete coverage of the polling units.

ii. Sufficient finance: Insufficient financial resources are a set-back in the management of election. The government should ensure that INEC and security agencies in the country receive adequate and prompt funds in order to meet logistical shortcomings and reduce chances of corruption. Sensitization on how to use the electronic devices must be conducted in a manner that they can be utilized in elections.

i. Better communication: Communication amidst the agencies during elections is typically unsatisfactory since no proper infrastructure and communication equipments are present. The security agencies are supposed to have modern communication equipment and a spirited synergy with the sister security agencies to facilitate the sharing of timely information and efficient running of the polling units and collation centers.

ii. Good training and impartial deployment: Security agencies need to be strongly trained to deal with new forms of threats in elections such as employment of political thugs as security guards. The officers are to be used outside their home states with an aim of minimizing ethnic factors and oversized political pressures hence operating with a fair and professional goal.

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